

OHIO COURT OF APPEALS, TENTH APPELLATE DISTRICT

State v. Hasbrouck

2025-Ohio-5816 · No. 25AP-82 · Decided December 30, 2025

SUMMARY

The Tenth District Court of Appeals of Ohio affirmed Chad E. Hasbrouck’s conviction for felonious assault and his four-to-six-year indefinite prison sentence. The court rejected challenges concerning other-acts evidence, prosecutorial misconduct, ineffective assistance of counsel, the manifest weight of the evidence, and the trial court’s failure to instruct the jury on aggravated assault. The court concluded that any evidentiary or prosecutorial errors were harmless or did not constitute plain error, and that the evidence overwhelmingly supported the conviction and rejection of self-defense.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Ohio Court of Appeals, Tenth Appellate District
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Dingus, J.; Beatty Blunt, J.; Edelstein, J.
JURISDICTION	Ohio Court of Appeals, Tenth Appellate District
DECIDED	December 30, 2025
DOCKET	25AP-82
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant appealed his Franklin County Court of Common Pleas conviction for felonious assault after a jury trial.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied de novo review to the legal question of admissibility under Evid.R. 404(B), abuse-of-discretion review to the balancing of probative value and prejudice when the evidence was offered for a permissible purpose, harmless-error review for preserved evidentiary error, plain-error review for unpreserved claims, abuse-of-discretion review for refusal to give a lesser-included-offense instruction, and manifest-weight review for the conviction.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published
PARTIES	Chad E. Hasbrouck v. State of Ohio

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- evidence
- prosecutorial misconduct
- ineffective assistance
- self defense

PRACTICE AREAS

criminal law

criminal procedure

evidence

appellate practice

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the trial court improperly admitted other-acts, character, and inflammatory evidence or failed to instruct the jury regarding testimony suggesting Hasbrouck stole flowerpots.
2. Whether prosecutorial misconduct during voir dire, opening statement, and closing argument constituted plain error.
3. Whether trial counsel was ineffective for failing to object to the alleged prosecutorial misconduct and other-acts evidence.
4. Whether the conviction was against the manifest weight of the evidence because the jury rejected Hasbrouck's self-defense claim.
5. Whether the trial court plainly erred by failing to instruct the jury sua sponte on aggravated assault.

HOLDINGS

1. The court found no prejudicial error in the admission of the challenged other-acts evidence or in the trial court's failure to instruct the jury to disregard the flowerpot testimony. Any error was harmless, and the limiting instruction reduced the risk of improper propensity use.
2. The prosecutor's references to Hasbrouck as having mental illness, calling him 'Crazy Chad,' and calling him a 'pathetic human being' were improper or offensive in part, but did not constitute plain error requiring reversal.
3. Hasbrouck failed to establish ineffective assistance based on counsel's failure to object to the prosecutor's comments or the other-acts evidence.
4. The trial court did not plainly err by failing to give a sua sponte instruction on aggravated assault because the evidence did not reasonably demonstrate serious provocation causing sudden passion or a sudden fit of rage.
5. The conviction was not against the manifest weight of the evidence because the jury did not lose its way in rejecting self-defense.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The first step is to consider whether the other acts evidence is relevant to making any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action more or less probable than it would be without the evidence."

(¶ 18)

"To defeat Hasbrouck's claim of self-defense, the state was required to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, any of the following: (1) Hasbrouck was at fault in creating the situation giving rise to the affray; or (2) Hasbrouck did not have a bona fide belief that he was in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm for which the use of deadly force was his only means of escape; or (3) Hasbrouck violated a duty to retreat or avoid the danger." (¶ 53)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Hasbrouck and J.B. had several prior verbal confrontations involving threats and racial epithets. On April 20, 2024, after another confrontation, Hasbrouck went to his residence, retrieved a knife and a railroad spike, returned to the street, and attacked J.B., who was unarmed. During the ensuing fight, Hasbrouck stabbed J.B. in the neck and chest; J.B. restrained him until a neighbor removed the weapons. Hasbrouck claimed self-defense, but the evidence showed that he initiated the physical encounter and that the State's evidence disproving self-defense was overwhelming.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Hasbrouck was indicted on one count of felonious assault under R.C. 2903.11, pleaded not guilty, and was convicted by a jury in November 2024. The trial court imposed an indefinite sentence of four to six years in prison. The Tenth District Court of Appeals overruled all five assignments of error and affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- State v. Hartman, 2020-Ohio-4440
- State v. Williams, 2012-Ohio-5695
- State v. Echols, 2024-Ohio-5088
- Blakemore v. Blakemore, 5 Ohio St.3d 217 (1983)
- State v. Tench, 2018-Ohio-5205
- State v. Barnes, 2002-Ohio-68
- State v. Pilgrim, 2009-Ohio-5357 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Gooch, 2025-Ohio-4595 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Hunt, 2013-Ohio-5326 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Smith, 14 Ohio St.3d 13 (1984)
- United States v. Dorr, 636 F.2d 117 (5th Cir. 1981)
- State v. Wilks, 2018-Ohio-1562
- Smith v. Phillips, 455 U.S. 209 (1982)
- State v. Wilkerson, 2002-Ohio-5416 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Drayer, 2004-Ohio-6120
- State v. Hicks, 2020-Ohio-548 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Shipley, 2013-Ohio-4055 (10th Dist.)
- Strickland v. Washington, 466 U.S. 668 (1984)
- State v. Conway, 2006-Ohio-2815 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Jones, 2019-Ohio-2134 (10th Dist.)

- State v. Young, 2020-Ohio-462
- State v. Ferrell, 2020-Ohio-6879 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Wimpey, 2019-Ohio-4823 (6th Dist.)
- State v. Jefferson, 2012-Ohio-2387 (8th Dist.)
- State v. Tubbs, 2020-Ohio-730 (7th Dist.)
- State v. Stanley, 2016-Ohio-7284 (7th Dist.)
- State v. Caldwell, 1998 Ohio App. LEXIS 6220 (10th Dist. Dec. 17, 1998)
- State v. Thompson, 1993 Ohio App. LEXIS 1198 (10th Dist. Feb. 23, 1993)
- State v. Moore, 2016-Ohio-8274 (4th Dist.)
- State v. Evans, 2006-Ohio-2564 (4th Dist.)
- State v. Thompkins, 1997-Ohio-52
- Tibbs v. Florida, 457 U.S. 31 (1982)
- State v. DeHass, 10 Ohio St.2d 230 (1967)
- State v. Raver, 2003-Ohio-958 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Antill, 176 Ohio St. 61 (1964)
- State v. Cattledge, 2010-Ohio-4953 (10th Dist.)
- Seasons Coal Co., Inc. v. Cleveland, 10 Ohio St.3d 77 (1984)
- State v. Guice, 2019-Ohio-1324 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Gonzalez, 2025-Ohio-1201 (2d Dist.)
- State v. Goings, 2025-Ohio-485 (2d Dist.)
- State v. Justice, 2024-Ohio-2574 (1st Dist.)
- State v. Ross, 2025-Ohio-2875 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Khalif, 2024-Ohio-2239 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Messenger, 2021-Ohio-2044 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Carney, 2020-Ohio-2691 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Daley, 2020-Ohio-4390 (10th Dist.)
- State v. Palmer, 2024-Ohio-539

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